

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY  
REMARKS EN ROUTE TO NICE, FRANCE, FROM SEVILLE, SPAIN, WITH MINISTER OF  
DEFENSE FRANCOIS LEOTARD OF FRANCE  
SEPTEMBER 30, 1994

Q. First, I wonder if we might have what you have on the latest happenings in Haiti -- whether there's been anymore violence akin to yesterday and does this represent mission creep, the fact that we now have more than 20,000 troops in Haiti and will that increase even more?

SECRETARY PERRY: The last report that I got was that there was relative calm during the night. But, the major demonstrations, the major gathering of people, is just now getting underway. So I'll have to take a very close reading on that during the next hour or two to see what develops.

In terms of personnel, we have not assigned or deployed any additional personnel. What we have done is delay the departure of two of the groups which otherwise would have phased out by now. One of them being the Marines at Cap Haitien and the other being the Joint Task Force headquarters. That's the difference between the number of people there and the number of people that were in the original plan. Our decision to hold them on, which keeps them there at least through what we think is going to be a turbulent weekend coming up and possibly through the 15th which is the date that Aristide, of course, is scheduled to come back. So we see a turbulent weekend and the unrest possibly continuing for another two weeks. So will make it a day to day decision as to when to send those units back to the United States. But at present, we thought it was prudent to keep them there.

Q. What's the total now? It's almost 20,000, is it not?

SECRETARY PERRY: It's 19,000 something.

Q. And on the matter of mission creep, I mean the pictures on CNN yesterday of the troops firing automatic weapons into the warehouse -- is this creeping into police duties?

SECRETARY PERRY: Our expectation of what we were going to run into in Haiti has always included the recognition that this is a country with a history of violence, number one. Number two, we knew there were Haitians who would be opposed to the restoration of the legal government. Some of them were armed. Some of them quite willing to turn to violence. And we knew in particular, that this weekend with the third anniversary of the coup as well as 15 Oct., two days with particular potential for violence. So our plans that have gone back several days, long before you saw this outbreak, we've had very special deployments of forces for this demonstration on the 15th. We will have the streets that we

expect the demonstrations to take place on blanketed with soldiers. And they have special instructions about how to deal with this.

I'm not suggesting that that's going to prevent -- that (inaudible) meet no violence. I do believe it will minimize the effects of it and quickly curtail violence when it does occur -- keep it from becoming general or widespread violence. That's always been -- in terms of mission we have had from the beginning, plans to have more than 1,000 military police there. Secondly, we've also from the beginning the plans that combat forces could serve as a quick reaction force, equipped among other things with Bradleys to go to trouble spots when they occur. So all of this to this point has been consistent with our original plan.

Q. Are these troops not now doing police duties which the Pentagon has vowed that's not the place for the troops?

SECRETARY PERRY: It's two different situations. Let me separate out Cap Haitien from Port-au-Prince. At Port-au-Prince, they're still there to oversee and supervise and to serve as a quick reaction force. At Cap Haitien where we lost the police force for reasons well reported, we are busy reconstructing that force as quickly as possible. I think that will be done in a matter of days, not weeks. In the meantime, the police force in the area is the US military.

Q. Are the indicators and warnings of violence for this upcoming weekend -- do you have any indication of extra danger or violence directed at Americans or do you see the violence and unrest being Haitian versus Haitian violence?

SECRETARY PERRY: Nearly all of our indications are of Haitian on Haitian violence. We do have some scattered reports of unknown credibility that there may be deliberate attempts to target Americans. One could speculate that even if we did not have the reports. In any event, our planning prudentially assumes that somebody may be targeting Americans and therefore we deploy ourselves with the assumption that that could happen. The reports are almost incidental to it; it's just a prudent way to plan.

Q. Is sniper fire the kind of danger we're talking about or are there warnings of things on a larger scale such as bombings or grenade attack or something of that nature?

SECRETARY PERRY: Our warnings are not that specific. As I said, I don't place too much credence in them anyway. We just try to -- we take into account the things that could happen and try to deal with those.

Q. Lastly, I gather from your remarks about the troop strength that the future schedule for the ramp down to the multinational peacekeeping force is still unchanged, it's on target.

SECRETARY PERRY: We expect to ramp down to the 15,000 in the relatively near future, whether that's a couple of days or two weeks depends on how things develop. Then after President Aristide returns, we would expect to gradually ramp down from that

15,000 to a number just in excess of 6,000 so that when the UN force comes in they would be replacing a force of like size.

Q I would just like to ask the Minister on the question of Haiti whether he has any thoughts on the operation, since France has been mentioned as a participant in the peacekeeping operation?

MINISTER LEOTARD: The American initiative -- we have supported the Security Council Resolution, as proposed by the United States, without any ambiguities -- the second part of the operation -- the numbers of gendarmes in the MINUHA, and right now, this very minute, the head of the Observers Mission is a French officer, and we are with our American friends to manage this crisis.

Q Mr. Minister, your attendance at the meeting was kind of an historic step. Do you see France any time soon, or at all, returning to the NATO military structure?

MINISTER LEOTARD: The decision that was made in 1966 is not questioned. And no one is actually asking us to question this decision. Now, the evolution of NATO, and especially after the Rome summit, in which we took part, as well as the Brussels summit of January 1974, this evolution within NATO satisfies us as being in the right direction. This alliance which is based on a massive threat from the East must now adjust to new types of crisis, for example, the Yugoslavian crisis which unfortunately is at the very present time; and any future crisis. And I would like to underline that (inaudible). There is a rather pragmatic and imperative (inaudible) to play to consider that there will be an evolution (inaudible).

Q I would just like to ask, Mr. Minister, about the celebration in Dijon and if you could describe a little bit about the society du Tastevin and about perhaps some of the wines that the Secretary will be treated to, and so forth? About what we're missing, in other words?

MINISTER LEOTARD: First of all, I'm extremely happy that Mr. Perry is able to come with to this celebration, which translates very well the good relationship, the friendly relationship between states, but also between France and France's friends, and maybe it's as permanent members of the Security Council, but also maybe because we have such wine, and a very ancient culture, and that we're glad and happy to share it. More seriously, it's a very old celebration in France, it is not artificial at all, and I'm extremely glad at being able to share a very exceptional moment with Bill Perry, and also with the Swiss Defense Minister, and we'll be together in the respect of one of the oldest French traditions, which is appreciation of wines. In some universities where Bill Perry was a student they tried by computer to compose the wine science, oenology -- but I'm sure that they will never do it by computers!

Q Are you looking forward to it?

SECRETARY PERRY: Of course, yes!

Q Do you like California wine?

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SECRETARY PERRY: I told you -- I should have warned you, these are the two toughest journalists in the Pentagon! (laughter) You know, this is the second joint press conference we've held -- the first one we held was in Goma, Zaire.

MINISTER LEOTARD: Yes, yes, we were in Zaire at the same time.

SECRETARY PERRY: Well, thank you, thank you very much.

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## Wine-tasting fraternity in France inducts Perry

By John Diamond  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANNES, France — Defense Secretary William Perry took a break from military business yesterday to be inducted into an ancient French wine-tasting club.

After meetings with NATO defense ministers in Spain and before visiting U.S. forces in Germany and in the Adriatic Sea, Mr. Perry flew to Dijon, France, on the plane of French Defense Minister Francois Leotard for the ceremony at Clos de Vougeot, one of the great vineyards of Burgundy.

The ceremony was closed to the traveling press and most of Mr. Perry's official entourage. But a French official provided a glimpse of what would take place as Mr. Perry became a member of "La Confrerie des Chevaliers du Testevin," or the Brotherhood of the

### Knights of Wine Tasting.

At a dinner at the chateau within the walls of Clos de Vougeot, Mr. Perry and Mr. Leotard would don red velvet robes and medieval four-cornered caps. Chevalier members would then place around their necks a ribbon with a silver "testevin" wine-tasting cup on the end.

Mr. Perry is not the first U.S. defense secretary to be inducted into the brotherhood. Dick Cheney joined in a similar ceremony during his tenure, according to U.S. officials.

Membership in the brotherhood runs heavily to Burgundy's prominent wine families and celebrities invited to join; a Perry aide noted that the club is open to men and women of all nationalities and races.

"It's a very old celebration in France," Mr. Leotard said.